

REPORT

OF

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 14th January 1893.

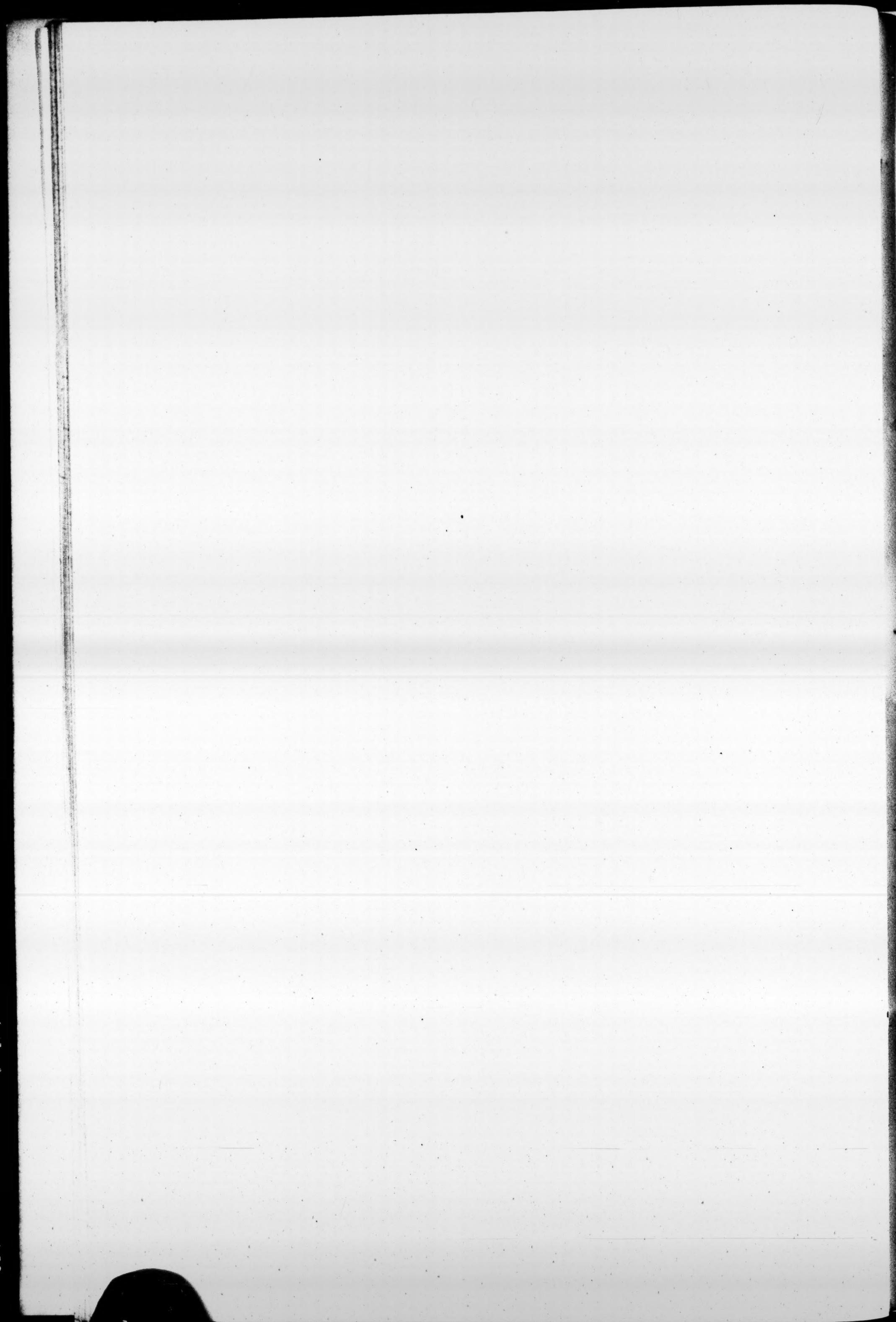
CONTENTS :

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
Nil.		Nil.	
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(h)—General—	
(a)—Police—		The land revenue and income-tax collections ...	32
Nil.		Mr. Lee, Sub-divisional Officer of Habiganj, Assam ...	ib.
(b)—Working of the Courts—		The Excise Commissionership ...	ib.
The European and the Native judiciary ...	23	Sir Charles Elliott and the Baliati Babus ...	ib.
The Jury despatch ...	ib.	The <i>Bangavasi</i> case in the Annual Administration Report ...	33
The Jury despatch ...	24	Proposed transfer of sub-divisional head-quarters in the Khulna district ...	ib.
The Jury despatch ...	25		
The Mymensingh Resolution ...	26	III.—LEGISLATIVE.	
Punishment of a Deputy Magistrate ...	27	Nil.	
"Ruinous justice" ...	ib.	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
The Resolution on the Mymensingh case ...	28	Nil.	
The Resolution on the Mymensingh case ...	ib.	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
The Resolution on the Mymensingh case ...	ib.	Nil.	
The Resolution on the Mymensingh case ...	ib.	VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
A heavy sentence ...	ib.	Impending water-scarcity in the district of Burdwan ...	33
Sir Richard Garth on the Mymensingh case ...	29	The Congress ...	ib.
The working of the jury notification ...	ib.	Small-pox in Dhubri, Assam ...	34
The Resolution on the Mymensingh case ...	30	The New Year's Day honours ...	ib.
The Munsif of Meherpur in the Nadia district ...	ib.	The New Year's Day honours ...	ib.
(c)—Jails—		The mukhtarship and pleadership examinations ...	ib.
Nil.		The <i>Hindoo Patriot</i> on Mr. Beveridge ...	ib.
(d)—Education—		The last Congress ...	ib.
Mr. Tawney retiring from service ...	30		
Mr. Justice Pigot as Vice-Chancellor... ..	ib.	URIYA PAPERS.	
Dr. Martin's election to the Presidentship of the Faculty of Arts ...	31	Nil.	
Forged examination certificates ...	ib.	ASSAM PAPERS.	
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		The health of Sylhet town ...	35
The Berhampore Municipality ...	31		
The Harrison tablet ...	ib.		
(f)—Questions affecting the land—			
The land revenue in Assam ...	31		
Oppression of raiyats by zamindars in Mymensingh ...	ib.		
Oppression of raiyats in the district of Mymensingh ...	32		

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Ahmadí"	Tangail, Mymensingh	600	
2	"Bankura Darpan"	Bankura	...	
3	"Grámvási"	Ramkristopur, Howrah	1,000	
4	"Kaliyuga"	Calcutta	...	
5	"Kasipur Nivási"	Kasipur, Barisál	280	
6	"Navamihir"	Ghatail, Mymensingh	500	
7	"Sadar-o-Mufassal"	Tahirpur, Rajshahi	...	
8	"Ulubaria Darpan"	Ulubaria	700	
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>				
9	"Hitakari"	Tangail Mymensingh	800	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
10	"Bangavási"	Calcutta	20,000	7th January 1893.
11	"Banganivási"	Ditto	8,000	6th ditto.
12	"Burdwán Sanjiváni"	Burdwan	335	3rd ditto.
13	"Cháruvartá"	Sherpur, Mymensingh	400	2nd ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca	2,200	8th ditto.
15	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	825	6th ditto.
16	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Boalia, Rajshahi	212	
17	"Hitavádí"	Calcutta	...	5th ditto.
18	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	...	
19	"Navayuga"	Calcutta	500	
20	"Prakriti"	Ditto	...	7th ditto.
21	"Pratikár"	Berhampore	609	6th ditto.
22	"Prithivi"	Calcutta	...	
23	"Rangpur Dikprakásh"	Kakinia, Rangpur	...	
24	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	800-1,000	4th ditto.
25	"Sahayogi"	Barisál	342	
26	"Sakti"	Dacca	...	
27	"Samáj-o-Sáhitya"	Garibpore, Nadia	1,000	
28	"Samaya"	Calcutta	3,000	
29	"Sanjiváni"	Ditto	4,000	7th ditto.
30	"Sansodhiní"	Chittagong	...	
31	"Sáraswat Patra"	Dacca	300	7th ditto.
32	"Som Prakásh"	Calcutta	600	9th ditto.
33	"Srimanta Sadagar"	Ditto	...	
34	"Sudhákár"	Ditto	3,100	6th ditto.
35	"Sulabh Samáchar"	Ditto	...	
<i>Daily.</i>				
36	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	Calcutta	500	6th, 9th and 10th January 1893.
37	"Bengal Exchange Gazette"	Ditto	...	6th and 9th to 12th ditto.
38	"Dainik-o-Samáchar Chandriká"	Ditto	1,000	1st and 8th to 12th ditto.
39	"Samvád Prabhákar"	Ditto	1,500	6th, 7th, 9th, 11th and 12th January 1893.
40	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	6th, 7th and 9th to 12th January 1893.
41	"Sulabh Dainik"	Ditto	...	6th, 7th and 9th to 11th ditto.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca	...	9th January 1893.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
43	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samáchar Patrika."	Darjeeling	50	
44	"Kshatriya Patriká"	Patna	250	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
45	"Aryávarta"	Dinapore	750	27th December 1892.
46	"Bihar Bandhu"	Bankipore	500	22nd ditto
47	"Bhárat Mitra"	Calcutta	1,200	22nd and 29th December 1892.
48	"Champaran Chandrika"	Bettiah	350	
49	"Desí Vyápári"	Calcutta	...	
50	"Hindí Bangavási"	Ditto	...	
51	"Sár Sudhánidhi"	Ditto	500	
52	"Uchit Bakti"	Ditto	4,500	

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Date of papers received and examined for the week.
URDU.				
Weekly.				
53	" Akhbar-i-Al Punch "	Bankipore ... ..	.....	23rd December 1892 5th January 1893.
54	" Anis "	Patna ... ..	.....
55	" Calcutta Punch "	Calcutta ... ..	.....
56	" Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide "	Ditto	340	
57	" General and Gauhariasfi "	Ditto ... ..	.....
58	" Mehre Monawar "	Muzaffarpur ... ..	.....
59	" Raisul-Akhbari-Murshidabad "	Murhidabad	150	
60	" Setare Hind "	Arrah ... ..	.....
61	" Shokh "	Monghyr ... ..	.....
URIYA.				
Monthly.				
62	" Asha "	Cuttack	165	
63	" Echo "	Ditto ... ..	.....
64	" Pradip "	Ditto ... ..	.....
65	" Samyabadi "	Ditto ... ..	.....
66	" Taraka and Subhavartá "	Ditto ... ..	.....
67	" Utkalprabhá "	Baripada ... ..	.....
Weekly.				
68	" Dipaka "	Cuttack ... ..	.....
69	" Samvad Váhika "	Balasore	200	
70	" Uriya and Navasamvád "	Ditto	420	
71	" Utkal Dipiká "	Cuttack	420	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
Fortnightly.				
72	" Paridarshak "	Sylhet	480	1st January 1893. 31st December 1892.
73	" Silchar "	Silchar	500	
Weekly.				
74	" Srihatta Mihir "	Sylhet	332	



II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

The European and the Native
judiciary.

The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 3rd January, has the following:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Jan. 3rd, 1893.

Mr. Williams, Magistrate of Burdwan, was lately on tour, and pitched his tent at Buddud on the 9th Agrahayan last. One Phul Chand Mallick came to him, and said that his two brothers were being forcibly detained by Kalipada Kooyar and two others, who were all Chitghanalal Gosvami's men. Thereupon the matter was enquired into, the three accused were arrested, tried, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment each, in addition to fines of various amounts. The Magistrate had previously disposed of several cases against Chitghanalal and his men, and had been therefore keeping a sharp eye on them. Moreover, he knew the accused to be bad men, while the offence of which they were guilty assumed a grave complexion from the fact that it was committed at a place which was at a very short distance from the Magistrate's camp. But all these aggravating circumstances notwithstanding, the Magistrate dealt with the prisoners with singular leniency, and inflicted such punishments on them as might be appealed against. In a case like the above a Bengali Deputy Magistrate would have sentenced the accused to six months' imprisonment. A Deputy Babu, it should be borne in mind in this connection, is nothing but a machine for inflicting punishments on all who have the misfortune to come to his court as *asamis*. Like all other machines he has no judgment, no discretion, and he goes about his duty in an irrational, machine-like fashion, without looking this way or that. He is born only to punish people, and can do nothing more or nothing less than that. But a Saheb is a living being and has all the qualities— independence, liberality, moral courage, &c.,—which go to make up a living being. Mr. Williams possesses these qualities in a sufficiently large measure. He has judgment, and he knows how to make a proper use of power. A Bengali, on the other hand, is a lifeless, cowardly creature who has no self-respect, and whose first and foremost thought is about his personal wants. A post carrying a salary from Rs. 200 to Rs. 800 per month quite upsets him. Such a post is to him what a stick is to a blind man, a piece of wood to a drowning man, and milk to an opium-eater. But why blame the Deputy Babus after all? If the writer had been one of them, he would have behaved exactly like them. The fault lies with the Bengali people and their untoward fate.

The jury despatch.

2. The *Sahachar*, of the 4th January, has the following on the jury despatch:—

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 4th, 1893.

The grand jury meeting was held on the 20th December last, and on the 21st, the Government of India addressed a long letter to the Secretary of State on the subject of jury trial.

The letter itself contains nothing new, but it is accompanied by an angry letter from the Government of Bengal on the subject of the trial of the Shambazar riot cases. The despatch shows one thing, namely that those who were consulted on the subject of jury trial thought till the last moment that the question before Government was one of improving the system. The Government of Bengal itself was for improving the system, but it suddenly changed its opinion. Government's own figures show that the jury system has not been a failure. Government admits that, in cases of theft and dacoity, jurors convict on insufficient evidence, but says that, in murder cases, they are unwilling to convict. This means that in theft and dacoity cases many innocent persons are convicted, and yet Government has no objection to keep these cases in the hands of juries. Its objection has reference only to murder cases. It is angry whenever persons tried for murder are let off. But how is it that it has not a word to say when Sessions Judges of Mr. Nicholls' type sentence innocent persons to death? The writer does not admit that the Indians look upon capital punishment as unjust. Man's experience in all parts of the world says that the abolition of capital punishment will result in mischief. Indian juries, moreover, are not moved by considerations like the above, but, following the example of English juries, they take particular care in accepting evidence in murder cases. Moreover, considering the stuff the police is made of, and considering that the very law of the land, under which confessions made even before men like Mr. Lambert are not acceptable as evidence, makes the police an object of distrust,

can Government blame people for carefully considering the evidence which is given by Police Sub-Inspectors and head-constables and by those witnesses whom they bring? Government's object has always been to administer even-handed justice, and no change has come over its policy in this respect. The writer will not, therefore, say that it loves to see all *asamis* sent either to jail or to the gallows, but if intention is to be judged by word and action, Government ought not to complain if people give a different interpretation to its policy in connection with the jury question. What a monstrous thing it is that the evidence in the case of a man who is going to lose his life is not to be carefully considered? The figures which Government has sent to the Secretary of State show that the verdicts of juries are set aside in 6 per cent. of murder cases and in 2 per cent. of other cases, and considering that in England the guilty escape in 25 per cent. of cases, the authorities should not expect the public to approve their action in this jury affair.

There are no professional murderers in India as there are in Europe, and the use of gunpowder or dynamite for the purpose of murder is unknown in this country. Most murders here are committed on the spur of the moment. A man unable to bear the sight of his wife committing adultery murders her in a fit of anger. He never murdered any one before, nor will he murder any one again, so, if this guilty man escapes from want of sufficient evidence, where is the harm to Government? Does Government think that this man's escape will be an incitement to other people to murder? Is it not a fact that a man bent on committing a murder never thinks of what the consequence of his crime will be? Nobody considers it desirable that the man who has always borne a good character, should, on that ground, escape the consequence of his first act of crime. The man who commits murder ought to take some punishment or other, but what matters it if he escapes punishment for want of evidence? His mere trial is a sufficient warning to himself and society, while not even Government can say that his escape results in political mischief. If so, why make so much fuss over the matter? Whenever any crime becomes numerous or common, people bring the fact to the notice of Government, and if the number of murders had become mischievously numerous in this country, the people themselves must have complained about it. Not only the Government of this country, but even despotic rulers, like Abdur Rahman, must admit the necessity of acting in accordance with the opinion of the people. It will not certainly be to the credit of Government if people come to think that it is adopting severe measures at a time when there is no need for such measures, and it is a matter of regret that Lord Lansdowne and Sir Charles Elliott do not see this. The statement in the despatch that religious prejudices stand in the way of juries convicting Brahman and other high-caste offenders is not true, and in making this statement Government has relied on baseless rumour. Let those who make the statement bring forward even one instance that will support or illustrate it. Government itself admits that *asamis* seldom come from the Brahmanical and other high classes, and if it examines the records of the district courts, it will see that many Brahmans have been sentenced to death. In Bengal, at any rate, jurors are not influenced by considerations like the above. Is it not a fact that a Hindu jury convicted the Mohant of Tarakesvara? And who got the Mohant convicted—Hindus or Christians? The writer will say, again and again, that Government will be unable to point out a single case in which a man was let off by a jury simply because he was a Brahman or a Maulavi.

HITAVADI
Jan. 5th 1893

The jury despatch.

3. The *Hitavadi*, of the 5th January, thus criticises the jury despatch:—

1. It is stated in the despatch that, within the last five years, 1,489 cases were tried by juries, and that jury trial has now been retained in 791 of these cases and abolished in 698. These figures are intended to make the public believe that jury trial has been abolished only in a small number of cases. But who is such a fool as not to see the difference between a petty theft case and a case of murder?

2. The despatch says that, of the 97 cases in which the Judge disagreed with the jury, 62 were referred to the High Court, and of these 62 the High Court set aside the verdict of the jury in only 34, which means rejection of the jury's verdict in 4.8 per cent. of the total number of cases tried by juries. Now, the number of cases in which the Judge disagreed with the jury cannot

justly be taken as the number in which the jury gave wrong verdicts, and the attempt of the Government of India to make that inference or proposition is hardly fair. Thus, the number of cases in which the jury went wrong may be set down at 4 per cent. of the cases tried by it. And does this show that jury trial is so abominable that its abolition has become imperative in the interests of justice?

3. The statement in the despatch that jurors acquit Brahmans and other high-caste prisoners was proved at the recent Town Hall meeting to be perfectly unfounded.

4. Again, it is not true that jurors are unable to master complicated cases. The smallness of the number of cases in which the Judge disagrees with the jury and the High Court sets aside the verdict of the jury, proves this.

5. It is said in the despatch that as the trial of murder and riot cases often takes several days, and it is not possible to lock up jurors all the time, they are often subjected to external influences, and this is a possible cause of failure of justice. To this it may be replied that the jurors trying a case being so many in number it is not possible to influence every one of them; and, if it be possible to influence all of them, why should it not be possible to influence the Judge too? Lord Ripon is now in the Cabinet—and Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji is in Parliament—and Mr. Gladstone is the head of the Ministry. This being the case, it is not at all likely that the despatch of the Government of India will carry much weight with the home authorities. Things look as if the jury system will soon have an extended application in India.

The jury despatch.

4. In reviewing the jury despatch the *Banganivasi*, of the 6th January, writes as follows:—

BANGANIVASI
Jan. 6th, 1893.

It is stated in the despatch that, when in 1884 Lord Ripon proposed an extension of the jury system, the High Court Judges, in their letter No. 1271, dated the 22nd April 1885, opposed the proposal. But the public cannot accept this statement without reading for themselves the High Court's letter, which has not been published with the despatch, seeing that in the present affair Government told the public that the High Court Judges were at one with it in the matter of the curtailment of the jury system, though when the papers were published it was found that, with the exception of Mr. Justice Ameer Ali, not a single Judge had advised this course. Two other letters are also referred to in the despatch, but have not been published. And a letter from the Bengal Government has been published with the despatch, but the writer never saw it before. It is dated the 22nd June 1891, was written by Sir John Edgar, and signed by Mr. Cotton. Will the Lieutenant-Governor kindly explain why this letter was not published earlier? This letter was replied to by the Government of India on the 25th August 1892, and so the Government of India must have slept over it for 14 months! The fact seems to be that, during these 14 months, the Government of India and the Government of Bengal were consulting about the best means of throwing dust in the eyes of the public.

The despatch contains little worth notice. It says (1) that out of a total of 203 murder cases tried by jury, 22, that is about 10 per cent., were referred to the High Court, and in 13 of these cases the High Court completely reversed the verdict of the jury; (2) that of 698 cases tried by jury last year under sections which have since been withdrawn from jury trial, in 34, that is in about 4.75 per cent. the High Court reversed the verdict of the jury; and (3) that out of 791 cases tried by jury during the same period under the sections which have not since been withdrawn from their cognizance, in 12 only, that is, in about 1.75 per cent., the verdicts were reversed by the High Court. Now, Government quotes these results in defence of its abolition of the jury system in the first two classes of cases, though it might have seen that the figures quoted point to quite a different conclusion. The disparity in the percentage of reversals by the High Court shown in the three classes of cases only means that, the more serious the charge brought against an accused person, the greater the care which jurors take in arriving at their verdict; and jurors accordingly fail to arrive at unanimous verdicts in a large percentage of such cases. The Government of India has also offered an insult to the judgment of jurors, by saying that, in those cases which were referred to the High Court, the accused were mostly men of means, who could afford to appeal to that court to have

the verdicts against them reversed, and that in the other cases the accused, who were poor men, could not prefer appeals to the High Court, and had therefore to submit to the verdict of the jury, right or wrong. But, as Government has been unable to adduce any evidence in support of this statement, no one can accept it as correct.

In the 4th paragraph of the despatch the Government of India says that the High Court Judges supported the action of the Bengal Government. But this is nothing short of a misstatement of fact. The High Court Judges were asked how the jury system had worked, and how it could be improved, if improvement was necessary in its working. The High Court Judges, therefore, only suggested the improvements which could be effected, but Government did not see fit to adopt any of their suggestions. One of the suggestions was that the law should be so altered as to make it compulsory on the Sessions Judge to refer a case to the High Court whenever he differed from the jury. So far as can be seen, Government did well to reject this proposal, as its acceptance would have unnecessarily increased the work of the Sessions Judges and of the High Court. But it is not at all clear why Government rejected the second suggestion, which was to the effect that an appeal against the verdict of the jury should be allowed in all cases, or, as suggested by Messrs. Justices Norris, Ghose, and Banerji, that appeals should be allowed in cases in which the jury are not unanimous. Government's plea for rejecting these suggestions is that their acceptance would have interfered with the 'comparative finality' of the verdict of jurors, which was not desirable. But was it not better to retain the jury system in a modified form than to abolish it altogether? But does not Government now purpose to allow appeals in all the cases which will be henceforward tried by jury under sections which have not been withdrawn from their cognizance? And, if what is proposed is done, what will become of the 'comparative finality' argument?

Government has shown that, on the whole, 4.75 per cent. of jury verdicts were reversed by the High Court, and Babu Guru Prasad Sen has shown from the Administration Reports of the Bengal Government that, in 66 per cent. of murder cases tried by Sessions Judges without the aid of jury, the sentences were reversed by the High Court. Is trial by Sessions Judges alone, then, more conducive to the ends of justice than trial by jury?

Even if the figures published by the Government be accepted as correct, does it not follow that the jury in India have done better even than the jury in England?

In finding fault with jury trial the Viceroy has made much of trial with the aid of assessors. But it must be said that in no other country in the world would trial with the aid of assessors be tolerated. The thing is that in its hurry to send the despatch Government could not make it strong in fact, figure, or argument. The Town Hall meeting, which was expected to be a failure, but which turned out an unprecedented success, led the Government to submit a despatch even before the Secretary of State had called for one.

5. The *Sanjivani*, of the 7th January, has an article headed, "Justice cannot be expected from Sir Charles Elliott," in which the Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution on the Mymensingh case is reproduced, with the following remarks:—

Sir Charles Elliott has at last awoke from his sleep. Raja Suryya Kanta of Mymensingh, submitted a petition to His Honour in September last, complaining of Mr. Phillips' high-handedness towards him, and received a reply only on the 31st December last. Sir Charles wants despatch from the mufassal *Hakims*, but has himself taken full three months' time to reply to a letter.

Then, as for the way in which the case has been disposed of by His Honour, it must be observed that better justice could not be expected from Sir Charles Elliott. It is enough that he has found fault with Mr. Phillips. But it is certain that Sir Stuart Bayley would have degraded Mr. Phillips, and transferred him to the Forest or the Opium Department. However that may be, Sir Charles Elliott ought to have published Mr. Phillips' own explanation. That explanation is dated the 26th October last, but it is not clear why it did not reach the Lieutenant-Governor before the 10th December. Where was the letter lying all this time? And is it true that it was at one time proposed to degrade Mr. Phillips? If so, why was that proposal dropped?

The Raja ought to institute proceedings without delay against Mr. Phillips for damages, and to take steps to have his case raised in Parliament. The spirit of the Administration is apparently becoming more and more rigorous every day in this country; and the high-handedness of the Magistracy is preventing the development of manly virtues in the people. The whole country should exert itself to check this tendency.

6. The same paper says that, according to a Barisal correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Government has posted a certain Deputy Magistrate to a most unhealthy subdivision of the Backergunge district, by way of punishment for his not punishing accused persons severely. This is terrible news if true. Can accused persons expect to receive fair trial in a country whose rulers are so anxious to oppress their subjects?

Punishment of a Deputy Magistrate.

"Ruinous justice."

7. The *Bangavasi*, of the 7th January, has the following:—

The people of this country will be simply ruined if no change or improvement is introduced in the present system of the administration of justice, on both its civil and criminal sides. As regards the administration of civil justice, it is not always or invariably the case that the rightful owner is enabled through the court's help to get his due; or, in other words, though nominal justice is done in all suits, still there can be no doubt that in practice injustice is done in many. But as to err is human, this result, however undesirable it may be, is neither to be wondered at nor regretted. What is to be regretted is that the existing judicial procedure and the inconveniences incidental to it are proving so ruinous. It is true that the judicial officers take no bribes, and show the strongest determination to try cases conscientiously and in strict accordance with the law; but it is also true that the manner in which they find themselves compelled to do their work, and do it, has had the effect of making the law courts veritable hells, where justice is bought and sold.

That the justice dispensed by the courts is such as can be purchased only at a very high price is admitted by the highest officers themselves. Besides the prescribed stamp and court-fees, there are lots of unauthorised items of expenditure which litigants have to incur. The conviction has become strong in men's minds that no suit, however good and equitable, can be gained without the help of good pleaders, and it is notorious that, while the services of good pleaders cannot be secured without paying exorbitant fees, the successful party is never able to recover the costs incurred on that account.

But the pecuniary loss to which suitors are subjected is not after all the most objectionable feature of the present system of administration of civil justice. The courts and the existing judicial procedure have brought about such an utter demoralisation of the people as will surely prove the country's ruin in the end. Many causes have combined to defeat the ends of justice. Not to speak of European Judges and Magistrates, who generally reside in the district headquarters, and pick up an irregular acquaintance with a half-a-dozen wealthy natives, even the native officers rarely mix with the people among whom they live and whose cases they have to decide. These officers are also subject to frequent transfers, and are, as a rule, not appointed to districts where they have their homes. All this prevents them from doing their work in the satisfactory manner which is only possible where the judicial officer possesses a thorough knowledge of the people who come to him for the decision of their cases.

It is admitted on all hands that no suit can be conducted in a law court without recourse to falsehood. Whatever the reason, the idea has taken root in men's minds that, if one must go to court, one cannot do without some amount of falsehood. You want falsehood to meet the requirements of knotty points of law, to defeat or counteract the effects of the false statements of the opposite party, to resist the attacks of bullying Counsel, and sometimes even to humour the Judge. The court's craving for truth, it would seem, can never be satisfied without some measure of falsehood. The courts offer special facilities for resorting to falsehood, and recourse to falsehood is often attended with considerable advantage. Thanks to the courts, falsehood is spreading in the country, wickedness is becoming rampant, and even the good are being compelled to resort to evil tactics. It is true that the whole people have not discarded truth and given themselves completely up to lying; but considering that, whether a

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 7th, 1893.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 7th, 1893.

plaintiff or defendant, witness or manager of a case, almost the whole population will have, in the course of time, to come, one by one, in contact with the law courts, there can be no doubt whatever that pure, unalloyed truth will gradually disappear therefrom.

The evils complained of exist in an aggravated form in the criminal courts. In the civil court it is only the party directly interested in a suit, that institutes and conducts it, mixes truth with falsehood, concocts falsehood, and tutors witnesses. Again, in a civil suit money must be freely spent. But it is only in the criminal court, and in a criminal case, that perfectly disinterested, needless, baseless and unmitigated falsehood can find free and unrestricted scope and flourish with the utmost luxuriance. The unforgiving disposition, the malice, and the vindictiveness are ever on the alert to devise falsehood, while their efforts are vigorously supported by those masterful liars—the dreadful fiends of the police. And obsequious Deputy Magistrates are too often tools in the hands of these fiends. The people are about to be undone, and it behoves Government to do what the crisis calls for.

8. The *Prakriti*, of the 7th January, has the following :—

PRAKRITI,
Jan. 7th, 1893.

The Resolution on the Mymensingh case.

A reply has at last been given to Raja Suryya Kanta's memorial. In his Resolution on the subject the Lieutenant-Governor has sought to please both sides. He has characterised Mr. Phillips' conduct as very unjust, and at the same time said that the Raja too was not free from blame. The question now is, as Mr. Phillips has been held guilty by His Honour, what punishment has been meted out to him?

DAINIK O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 8th, 1893.

9. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 8th January, says that, in

The Resolution on the Mymensingh case.

his Resolution on the Mymensingh case, the Lieutenant-Governor has blamed Mr. Phillips for want of discretion, but has declared him to have

acted *bonâ fide* in criminally prosecuting the Raja. No one can know a man's motive for his action, except in so far a motive is manifested by the nature of the action itself. And it is somewhat strange that the Lieutenant-Governor, whilst admitting that Mr. Phillips' action was wrong, should yet acquit him completely on the score of motive. But granting that Mr. Phillips was guilty only of a wrong action, and nothing more, what, it may be asked, has been his punishment for it? Did not Sir Charles Elliott completely disregard public opinion by sending him back to Mymensingh? Perhaps Mr. Phillips was sent back to Mymensingh because of the criticism of the case in the Native Press. The public is very much dissatisfied with the Resolution, and, the more so, as the Raja himself has been blamed for his conduct. The Resolution looks more like a defence of Mr. Phillips than an expression of the impartial opinion of the ruler of a province. But it should perhaps be noted that in India no one expects official justice and impartiality to be of a very high standard.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Jan. 9th, 1893.

10. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 9th January, considers it some gain that the

The Resolution on the Mymensingh case.

Lieutenant-Governor has come to see that a high official like Mr. Phillips is not incapable of wrong-headedness. As for the oppression committed upon

the Raja by that officer, it was nothing unusual, seeing that almost every day some big man or other is being ill-treated by the district authorities.

SULABH DAINIK,
Jan. 9th, 1893.

11. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 9th January, says that a gentle rebuke like

The Resolution on the Mymensingh case.

the one administered to Mr. Phillips by the Lieutenant-Governor will be nothing to the thick-skinned man, who glories in being censured and reproved, and

especially when with the rebuke goes His Honour's certificate that there was nothing wrong in Mr. Phillips' mind. And Sir Charles' Resolution will give satisfaction neither to Raja Suryya Kanta nor to the general public.

DAINIK O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 9th, 1893.

12. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrikâ*, of the 9th January, says that a

A heavy sentence.

Deputy Magistrate in the district of Birbhum lately sentenced a chaprasi in the service of the District

Superintendent of Police to three months' imprisonment for having taken three biscuits belonging to his master, without his master's permission! In inflicting this punishment, which is greatly out of proportion to the nature of the offence, the Deputy Magistrate was perhaps actuated by the thought that, as it was the police which was robbed, the thief required exemplary punishment, for it

cannot be that the fear of the Police Sahab had anything to do with the infliction of the heavy sentence!

13. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 11th January, thus criticises Sir Richard Garth on the Sir Richard Garth's letter on the Mymensingh case:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan., 11th, 1893.

Sir Richard thinks that Government ought to compel Mr. Phillips and Mr. Hallifax to appear before an independent Commission, and to be examined there in the presence of Raja Suryya Kanta. But does not the ex-Chief Justice know that civilians, even when they are guilty of committing gross oppression on the natives of this country, are never tried in the manner suggested by him? How does he then expect to see that which he never saw when he was here? And he could have himself, during the time he was Chief Justice, summoned many guilty civilians before the High Court, even as Sir Barnes Peacock did in one case, but did he ever do so? Has Sir Richard forgotten that, in this country, Magistrates and other civilian officials of Government cannot be tried for any offence that they may be guilty of as impartially as he would desire, and that Government will never allow such trials to be held? What happens in England cannot happen in India. Here offences committed by the officials, however grave and however numerous, are always forgiven. The administrative system of this country is also different from that of England. Sir Richard must have known this when he was here. The writer now sees from Sir Richard's letter that civilian lawlessness and the countenance it unjustly receives from the highest civilian authorities greatly annoyed and chagrined him, and that he, therefore, tried his best to put down official high-handedness. This is also clear from his book "Plain Truths about India." But the writer feels constrained to say that if Sir Richard, had, while in India, given expression to these views from his seat on the Bench he would have done something towards checking civilian high-handedness. That Government has been for a long time attempting to interfere with the independence of the High Courts, and that its efforts are being crowned with success, is a fact which Sir Richard knew to his cost even when he was in India. It is true he gave expression to his views in this matter from time to time, but the writer is constrained to say that he did not do his best to arrest the evil. Speaking of the prosecution of Raja Suryya Kanta, for instance, Sir Richard says that any Lord or gentleman in England may be subjected to such a prosecution, thereby implying that there is nothing unusual in such a prosecution, and that the Lord or gentleman who may be so prosecuted would not be treated in the way the Raja has been. But he should have said so in so many words, and not left his meaning to be collected. Again, if he had been in the High Court when the Raja's case was brought before it, could he have compelled Mr. Phillips to appear before the High Court and submit his explanation? And, supposing he would have had the power to do so, the two Judges of the High Court who tried the Raja's case were certainly to blame for not having exercised their power in the manner suggested, and Sir Comer Petheram has laid himself open to blame for having countenanced such a dereliction of duty by his colleagues. Reference is then made to the passage in Sir Richard's letter, in which he condemns Mr. Phillips' letter to the District Judge who heard the Raja's appeal as very indecent and illegal, and the following remarks are made:—

By sending Mr. Phillips back to Mymensingh Sir Charles Elliott has insulted not only Raja Suryya Kanta and the people of the district of Mymensingh, but the whole country. That act of the Lieutenant-Governor is intended, as it were, to show that Civilian offenders, however grave their offence, are above punishment. Sir Charles thinks that acts like these go to increase the prestige of Government, but the fact is they only increase popular disaffection.

The working of the jury notation.

14. The same paper has the following on the Murshidabad murder case:—

This case was tried with the aid of assessors, and the Judge sentenced the prisoner to death. But the Judges of the High Court, who heard the appeal, have held the evidence in the case quite unreliable, and acquitted the prisoner. Considering the nature of the evidence, if the accused had been tried with the aid of jurors, he would have been acquitted. And the Judge would then have expiated on the evils of jury trial, and Sir Charles Elliott would have made a

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,

great noise about it. Be that as it may, the case shows very clearly the difference between trial by jury and trial with assessors. Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, who argued the case in the High Court on behalf of the prisoner, contended that the jury notification of Government was not valid in law, and the writer hopes that the Judges will endorse this view in their judgment in the case.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 12th, 1893.

The Resolution on the Mymensingh case.

15. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 12th January, has the following on the Mymensingh Resolution:—

It is stated in the Resolution that Mr. Phillips bore no animus against the Raja, and did nothing against him in bad faith. But the *Bengal Times* of Dacca has distinctly said that, because the Raja refused to appoint Mr. Phillips' nominee as his Manager, he incurred the displeasure of that officer. Mr. Phillips has not contradicted this statement, while there are other comments which other people make in this connection. Under these circumstances, Sir Charles Elliott would have been justified in exonerating Mr. Phillips from all blame, if only the latter had been pronounced not guilty by a court composed in the manner suggested by Sir Richard Garth, and after a regular trial in the presence of the Raja, Mr. Hallifax and Mr. Phillips himself.

In his letter to Mr. Ghosh on this case Sir Richard Garth gives it as his opinion that the Raja's case against Mr. Phillips ought not to be decided by merely calling for an official explanation from that officer or consulting the views of the civilian clique. But this is precisely what is done in such cases, and has been done in the present case too. Mr. Phillips' explanation was taken, the opinion of Government's Civilian Secretaries was consulted, and the case was disposed of by the Lieutenant-Governor. Of course, the decision has not satisfied the public. But what if it has not? Bengal is not England.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Ghosh will inform Sir Richard Garth that Government has directed no public and impartial enquiry to be made into the charges brought against Messrs. Phillips and Hallifax, that it has not punished them in any way, and that the Civilian clique has disposed of the case against those officers. It is also to be hoped that Sir Richard on his part will do his best to set matters right. As a native editor, living under Civilian rule and under the Government of Sir Charles Elliott, the writer fears to say anything more.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

16. The same paper says that if it is really the case that owing to the abolition of the Chuadanga sub-division the Munsif of Meherpur will have to hold his Court at Chuadanga for 15 days in the month, retrenchment must be said to have reached its climax. If it is possible to entrust the work of inspecting cattle-pounds to the Sub-Inspectors of Schools, the Deputy Inspectors of Schools may well be appointed to do the work of Munsifs. The Deputy Inspectors who will be appointed will only have to be graduates in law.

(d)—Education.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 1st, 1893.

17. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 1st January, has the following on the subject of Mr. Tawney's retirement:—

Mr. Tawney retiring from service

In noticing Mr. Tawney's retirement in the official gazette, the Lieutenant-Governor has passed upon him very high encomium. But it is known to many people that it is on account of Sir Charles Elliott that Mr. Tawney has had to go away on pension so soon. No rumour is ever entirely unfounded. When Sir John Edgar retired, his praise was sung in the official gazette, but many people say that his retirement was due to Sir Charles. The present Bengal Administration has made it a principle to first worry its officers into retirement and then to sing their praise.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 5th, 1892.

18. The *Hitavadi*, of the 5th January, is glad at Mr. Justice Pigot's appointment to the Vice-Chancellorship. Mr. Justice Pigot is an able lawyer, and it is hoped that under his regime, the affairs of the University will be free from such scandals as marked them during the Vice-Chancellorship of his predecessor, although he was a very estimable man.

19. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandriká*, of the 9th January, has the following about Dr. Martin's election as President of the Faculty of Arts:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 9th, 1893.

Dr. Martin's election to the Presidency of the Faculty of Arts. Mr. Griffiths secured the attendance at the meeting of all the members connected with the Education Department. The other side who wanted to make Dr. Sarkar President could not make all their men attend. Nevertheless, the votes were equal on both sides—18 on each side. But Dr. Martin was himself present at the meeting, and he voted for himself and thus obtained the Presidency by one vote. But people regard such a victory as this in the light of a defeat. Moreover, voting for one's own self, though not objectionable from the English point of view, is unbecoming according to native ideas.

20. The same paper, of the 12th January, says that there are few rulers so fauzdari-loving as Sir Charles Elliott, who is always anxious to extend the purview of the criminal law. His Honour recently went up to the Government of India with a proposal to add a section to the Indian Penal Code making the use of a forged examination certificate a penal offence. But the Viceroy has rejected his proposal. His Excellency has evidently profited by his experience of the jury agitation. The Government of India however has not acted well by promising to support any proposals that may be made for excluding from the public service any persons detected in the use of forged certificates. This will be inflicting heavy punishment for a light offence, and punishing a man in his youth for an offence committed by him in boyhood.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 12th, 1893.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

21. A correspondent of the *Pratikar*, of the 6th January, says that several houses in the Khagra ward of the Berhampore Municipality in the Murshidabad district not having been assessed to taxes, the matter was brought up for discussion at a recent meeting of the Municipality in which it transpired that the work of assessment in this Municipality is performed not by the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman, but by the tax-collector. And this is Local Self-Government! It is also said that all papers connected with this case are missing from the municipal files. It is to be hoped the Municipal Commissioners will not hush up the matter as they did the privy affair.

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 6th, 1893.

22. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandriká*, of the 8th January, says that, in the tablet which is being erected on the Harrison Road to the memory of the late Sir H. Harrison, space should be kept for Mr. Cotton's name.

DAINIK O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 8th, 1893.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

23. The *Sanjivani*, of the 7th January, had heard that the new rules about the land-revenue in Assam would not be put into operation till the Viceroy had considered the representations of the zamindars, the raiyats, and tea planters on the subject. But a telegram since received from Sibsagar states that the rules have been already put into operation in that district, and that large numbers of raiyats are going to the Deputy Commissioner's cutcherry every day, in order to file objections against the new assessment or for the purpose of giving up their lands. On the 19th December last a number of men went to the Deputy Commissioner's cutcherry, and two of them were arrested. This expression of temper on the part of the Deputy Commissioner, together with the enhancement of the land-revenue, has frightened the people.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 7th, 1893.

24. A correspondent of the same paper says that rumours are being heard about the commission of various sorts of oppression on their raiyats by some zamindars in Mymensingh. If the rumour is true, the other zamindars in the district should do their best to bring round their more high-handed brethren. For, at a time when Government is keeping a sharp eye upon the conduct of zamindars, the latter cannot be too careful as to how they behave themselves.

SANJIVANI.

PRAKRITI,
Jan. 7th, 1893.

25. The *Prakriti*, of the 7th January, says that the raiyats of Gouripur, in the district of Mymensingh, are grossly oppressed by their zamindars. They do not seem to be aware of the existence of such a law as the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885. That they do not know of it is because Government does not take sufficient care to bring its laws to the knowledge of its ignorant and uneducated subjects. As it publishes its Acts and Bills only in the official Gazettes and in English, ignorant people can know nothing about them. The practice of giving cheque dakhilas to raiyats is still unknown in Gouripur. And considering the penalties provided in the sections of the Tenancy Act relating to the granting of cheque dakhilas to raiyats, there seems to be some mystery about the absence of the practice in all the zamindaris in the district of Mymensingh, and especially at Gouripur. As the raiyats in the district of Mymensingh are all weak, timid, and inoffensive, they have not as yet protested against this.

(h)—General.

BANGANIVASI,
Jan. 6th, 1893.

26. The *Banganivasi*, of the 6th January, writes as follows:—

The land-revenue and income
tax collections

The Lieutenant-Governor is glad that the land-revenue collections in the Presidency Division were so much as 97·6 per cent., "especially in a year in which agricultural conditions were unfavourable." As the words quoted are His Honour's own, it is clear that His Honour knows that there was a general failure of the crops all over the province last year. It does not therefore mean a feeling heart to feel satisfaction at good collections in a year in which poor raiyats and petty zamindars must have experienced considerable difficulty in paying their dues. His Honour would show a better heart if he were to direct these collections to be made with a little more regard to the condition of those from whom the land-revenue is collected.

Referring to the subject of the income-tax collections, the writer considers it very odd that Mr. Inglis, whilst accepting the account books of the European firms as perfectly reliable, should impugn the accuracy of the account books of native merchants and traders. Mr. Inglis's statements in regard to these latter account books amount to saying that native merchants and traders are capable of perjury, forgery, and cheating. But if Messrs. Inglis and Kilby really think that native merchants keep false account books with a view of cheating the income-tax authorities, why do they not indict those men in a criminal court? For, so far as the writer can see, neither Mr. Kilby nor Mr. Inglis has any right to cast aspersions upon their character so long as they are not proved guilty in a criminal court. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce ought to protest without delay.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 7th, 1893.

27. The *Sanjivani*, of the 7th January, says that, according to a Habiganj correspondent of a certain newspaper, Mr. Lee, subdivisional officer of Habiganj, Assam, annoyed by the sound of music coming from a boat

in which a marriage party were proceeding up the river, rushed out of his court and began to stone the party. The men did not at first understand what Mr. Lee meant, but when they came to see his meaning they stopped their music. The story is scarcely worthy of credence. But as it has appeared in a newspaper, it would be well for the authorities to enquire whether it is true or not. If Mr. Lee is really found guilty of such strange conduct, then it must be said that his head is not all right, and he should be sent to the proper place for treatment.

SANJIVANI.

28. Referring to the rumour that Mr. K. G. Gupta will be appointed

The Excise Commissionership.

Excise Commissioner in succession to Mr. Westmacott, the same paper says that, now that the salary of the post has been reduced, and the office has, therefore, lost its former importance, Mr. Gupta will do well not to accept it, if he is required to stick to it for the remainder of his service. An able officer like Mr. Gupta should not allow his energies to be circumscribed within such a narrow sphere.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 8th, 1893.

29. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 8th January, says that it has undoubtedly been extremely humiliating to Sir Charles Elliott to make up his differences with the Belati East House Babus, as the *Dacca Prakash*

Sir Charles Elliott and the
Belati Babus.

says, under pressure of a letter written to His Honour by Sir A. Wilson, the retired Judge of the High Court, who tried the Dacca bribery case. It is said that the Beliat Babus really entertained the idea of bringing an action for libel against the Lieutenant-Governor, and that it was only at the intercession of the Dacca Commissioner that they gave up the idea. It was well that the Babus gave up their idea. And it has been well, too, for Sir Charles Elliott that he has made up with the Babus, for has not His Honour made himself unpopular with all classes and sections of the people, and even with a large section of the civilian community? It is, indeed, high time that His Honour mended his ways somewhat.

30. The same paper says that Sir Charles Elliott would have done well not to have made any mention of the *Bangavási* case in the Annual Administration Report, for everybody does not admit that the case augmented the prestige of Government. Many people in this country and many people in England, too, have come to see that Sir Charles is incapable of pleasing his subjects.

DAINIK-O-SOMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 8th, 1893.

31. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 10th January, has the following:—

Proposed transfer of subdivi-
sional head-quarters in the Khulna
district. Recently the District Judge and the Collector of Khulna visited the subdivision of Satkhira in the course of their mufassal tour. The steamer in which the Sahebs were travelling could not pass through the Satkhira canal, and the wife of the Judge fell ill at Satkhira. A Munsif recently transferred to that subdivision is also suffering from fever, whilst the Deputy Magistrate in charge of the subdivision drinks only cocoanut water, the water of the place being, in his opinion, unfit for human use. All this led the Judge to report to Government, recommending the transfer of the subdivisio-
nals head-quarters from Satkhira to the village Patkelghata, on the bank of the Kabotaksha, and as a result of this report, the construction of a pucca cutcherry-house at Satkhira has been stopped. Now, a transfer of the subdivisio-
nals head-quarters from Satkhira will result in great inconvenience to the local pleaders and mukhtars, many of whom have settled there. The transfer, moreover, will not make the place itself salubrious. It will cost Government an amount of money which may be better spent in improving the health of the place.

SULABH DAINIK,
Jan. 10th, 1893.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

32. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 3rd January, says that water-scarcity is likely to be severely felt this year at various places in the district of Burdwan. All the tanks in the village Jotkabis, within the jurisdiction of the Jamalpore thana, have nearly dried up, and their water has become unfit for bathing and drinking purposes. Babu Lolit Mohan Roy, Zamindar of Chak-dighi, made arrangements for supplying Sunde and other villages near Jotkabis with water from the Eden canal, but water has not yet been supplied. Having regard to this state of things, Government ought to show some liberality in the matter of collecting the water-rate.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Jan. 3rd, 1893.

The Congress.

33. The *Sahachar*, of the 4th January, has the following on the last Congress:—

The last Congress at Allahabad was in every respect a success. Hitherto, Mr. Hume has been regarded as the creator and the protector of the Congress, but this time the Congress did not receive his help. And yet all the arrangements were excellent. The Congress is not a thing which can die, and it is the duty of all to support the movement. Hindus and Mussulmans ought to make common cause in the matter. The readiness with which the delegates assembled at the Congress responded to Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee's call for subscriptions is a good sign, and shows that people's zeal in the movement has not abated. The fact is, people have advanced too far to recede, and Hindus and Mussulmans will both disgrace themselves if they fail to maintain the movement. The proposal to hold the next meeting of the Congress at Amritsar is a guarantee of its existence. The Punjab is the land of heroes, the first settlement of the Aryan race, and a holy place in the eyes of both Hindus and

SAHACHAR.
Jan. 4th, 1893.

Mussulmans. And the Congress' resolution to meet there next year means that all classes of Indians have understood their duty by their fatherland.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 7th, 1893.

34. The *Bangavasi*, of the 7th January, has learnt that small-pox is raging violently in Barsigram, in the district of Dhubri in Assam. Already 30 or 35 men have died

Small-pox in Dhubri, Assam.

of the disease, and one or two deaths are still occurring every day. As the dead bodies are thrown into the stream called the Gauranga, the health of the neighbouring villages, whose inhabitants use its water, is likely to be affected.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Jan. 7th, 1893.

35. The *Saraswat Patra*, of the 7th January, says that Bengal is rather in the shade as regards the New Year's Day

The New Year's Day honours.

honours, but the writer is glad to see a worthy man like Lala Banbehari Kapur graced with the title of 'Raja.'

SOM PRAKASH,
Jan. 9th, 1893.

36. The *Som Prakash*, of the 9th January, is not satisfied with the list of the New Year's Day honours. No favour of any

The New Year's Day honours.

kind has been shown to Bengalis this time. No first class title of honour has fallen to the lot of any Bengali, and only a few among them have been honoured with inferior titles.

SULABH DAINIK,
Jan. 10th, 1892.

37. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 10th January, says that the 15th February next has been fixed for this year's mukhtarship and

The mukhtarship and pleader-ship examinations.

pleaders examinations. But, as according to the

Smartas (those who are versed in the *Smritis*), the *parana* (the day of breaking the fast) of the *Sivaratri* falls on that day, and, according to the Gosvamis, the *Sivastu fast* itself falls on that day, Mr. Justice Ghose, President of the Law Faculty, is asked to fix another day for commencing the examination. The day for holding the Entrance Examination was once changed on account of its having happened to be the day of the *Sivaratri* fast.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 10th, 1893.

38. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 10th January, says that it is true Mr. Beveridge had sympathy with the

The *Hindoo Patriot* on Mr. Beveridge.

natives, but it is not true, as the *Hindoo Patriot* says, that he was an able Judge. It is not also true,

as the *Hindoo Patriot* says, that it was owing to his independence and native sympathies that he did not get a seat in the High Court. It is because Mr. Beveridge was not a very good Judge that he could not come to the High Court. The *Patriot* might well have spared itself the trouble of giving Mr. Beveridge a character for 'honesty,' for no one now-a-days impugns a Judge's character for honesty. The right certificate to give to a Judge is a certificate for the strictest justice and uprightness, for a scrupulous rejection of everything, including personal notions, opinions, impressions, prejudices, &c., that is not warranted by evidence and the law; and will the *Hindoo Patriot* give Mr. Beveridge such a certificate as this? Did Mr. Beveridge act in strict accordance with law and justice in the case of Raja Ranajit Singh *versus* Rani Subhadra Kumari of Murshidabad? Did he not allow the plaintiff in that case to execute his decree against the defendant before his judgment had been written and published?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 11th, 1893.

39. A correspondent of the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 11th January, who was present at the last meeting of the

The last Congress.

Congress at Allahabad, says that people's ardour

about the movement has cooled. The excitement, the animation, the enthusiasm, and the joy which marked the proceedings of the Congress of 1888 were not seen in this year's assembly. The correspondent was in the railway station on the day before the meeting of the Congress, but very much missed the elegant, well-dressed figures which he had seen on the platform on the previous occasion. There was also no noise and bustle, and no loud cries of 'Congress,' 'Delegate.' In 1888 the delegates decorated the railway compartment in which they came with garlands of flowers, and their joyous shouts shook the station. But nothing of that was seen this year. The delegates came and were received by the boys—that is all. The writer would like to know why so much as Rs. 8 to 10,000 were wasted on such a temporary structure as the Congress *Mandap*? Ten thousand rupees would have fed a large number of people suffering from famine.

ASSAM PAPERS.

40. The *Paridarshak*, of the 1st January, says that the cause of the malaria which prevails in Sylhet town every year during the summer and rainy seasons is to be found

PARIDARSHAK
Jan. 1st, 1893.

The health of Sylhet town. in the extremely unsatisfactory condition of the drains. The drains are in many places lower in level than the tanks and the river with which they are connected, and a large number of houses have not yet been connected with the drains. The municipality has set apart a certain sum of money in the budget for the cleansing of the drains during the next rainy season; but the writer thinks that the work will be much better done, and at a less expense, if it is undertaken not in the rainy season, when the drains are full, but in winter, when they are empty. The writer would also draw attention to the jungle which is allowed to grow in every house and place within the town. Could not the municipality enact a bye-law, compelling the residents to remove jungle from their houses?

Cholera in the cold season is not less furious in Sylhet town than fever in the rainy months. And this cholera is due to the want of good drinking water. The *jallas* (tanks) in the town have become shallow, and are completely dry in winter. It is necessary for the health of the town that these *jallas* should be either re-excavated or filled up, for in their present condition they play no unimportant part in the generation and propagation of malaria and cholera. It has been proposed to construct water-works in Sylhet, but that will take time. In the meantime water-scarcity may be removed by excavating some tanks. One tank at Chanhatta, another at Nayasarak, and a third at Telihaor will give the town a fairly good supply of drinking water.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 14th January 1893.

